









Australia: Pre-Planning Meeting for the 3rd International Wildland Fire Conference

**January 23 – 25, 2002
&
July 31 – August 3, 2002**

Purpose and Background:

Throughout the world fire threatens communities, homes, livelihoods, water sources, and other social and economic values. In October 2003 several Australian organizations will host the 3rd International Wildland Fire Conference in Sydney, Australia. One of the three international hosts is the Fire Management Working Group (FMWG) of the North American Forestry Commission. BLM, Office of Fire and Aviation (OF&A) is a member of the FMWG and played an active role in the 2nd International Wildland Fire Conference held in Vancouver, B.C. in 1997. It was an immensely successful experience for BLM. This conference is one place where BLM can speak about and display its goals and accomplishments to an international audience. It is also a place where employees at all levels can discuss universal fire management issues and problems with an international audience.

An International Liaison Committee was established for the conference to:

-  Provide a strategic overview of the conference and summit;
-  Provide advice on content, themes, sub-themes, speakers, sponsorship and the general conduct for the conference;
-  Provide advice on possible summit outcomes and attendees;
-  Accept administrative responsibility for liaison within their region;
-  Be an ongoing "Ambassador" to the region for the conference and summit;
-  Have a continued liaison with the Australasian Fire Authorities Council.

Tim Murphy, Deputy Director, OF&A, and Connie Lewis, International Program Specialist, OF&A, are active members of this committee.

This report covers two meetings, one held January 23 – 25, 2002, and the second held July 31 – August 3, 2002. Both meetings were held in Sydney, Australia.

Meeting Activities:

Mr. Gary Morgan, Chairman of the Australasian/Forest Fire Management Group Steering Committee, and the International Liaison Committee officiated the meetings. Representatives from Australia and New Zealand were present, as well as approximately 15 members from Europe, Africa, South America, Central

America, North America, and Asia. Several agenda items were packed into the short time-frame for the meetings, including:

- 📅 Lessons learned from the two previous conferences and summits,
 - 1st Conference held in Boston, USA, 1989
 - 2nd Conference held in Vancouver, Canada, 1997
- 📅 Review of the Business Plan, including sponsorship, awards, advertising, funding, marketing, exhibit halls.
- 📅 Ensuring all levels of fire programs are represented, e.g. developing countries will be represented as far as speakers and participation
- 📅 Scholarship Programs
- 📅 Speakers
- 📅 Summit –
- 📅 Conference would be of value to all participants

In addition, the Sydney Christmas fires were visited to give the participants a better understanding of Australia's unique, rural interface problems.

